

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-11, and 15-25 are pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1, 11, and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Frederick, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,178,497 ("Frederick"). Claims 3, 5-10 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frederick in view of Roy, U.S. Patent No. 6,785,802 ("Roy"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration. Claims 4 and 13 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants continue to disagree with the rejection for the reasons stated in the previous response. However, to expedite issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 4 (which originally depended directly from claim 1) and have amended claim 11 to include the features of claim 13 (which originally depended directly from claim 11). Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 6-10, and 24, dependent from claim 1, and claims 15-19 and 25, dependent from claim 11, are similarly in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also amended claim 20 to include the features of claim 4. Accordingly, claim 20 is in condition for allowance. Claims 21-23, being dependent from claim 20, are similarly in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-90500/LJM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$
for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence J. Merkel

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AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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Date: 4/12/06